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Trends in Soviet Genetics Controversy

1952 - 1953

1952 - 1953

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I think that in the future the trends in Soviet genetic theory will deviate from the current position and offer the following to substantiate my views.

1. Two articles in a Soviet botanical magazine which criticize Lysenko:

N V Turbin, "Darwinism and the New Teaching on Species." In BOTANICHESKIIZHURNAL, vol. XXXVII, No. 6, November-December 1952. pp. 798-818.

N D Ivanov, "On the New Teaching of T D Lysenko about Species." Ibid, pp. 819-842.

2. An excerpt in translation from an article by I N Antipov-Karatev, "Struggle against Neo-Malthusianism - Struggle for Peace," POCHVOVEDENIE, (Soil Science), No. 2, 1953, pp. 1-12, which criticizes Robert Cook (a US authority on Soviet Genetics) in far calmer words than were previously voiced by Soviet publications:

"Quite recently a series of neo-Malthusian publications have made their appearance. In 1951 Robert Cook, the bourgeois geneticist, came out with his book, "Human Fertility - the Modern Dilemma." 1/ The journal "Soil Science" 2/ devoted an editorial to this work. The editors of this journal in every way recommended the book and its author, thereby fully and unservedly aligning themselves with the propaganda of the base

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and humanity-hating 'theory' of Malthusianism. Cook's arguments do not display originality: the population of the world at present reaches 2.5 billion people; it is increasing every 24 hours by 68 thousand, i.e., approximately by 25 million more people annually. The author sees the only way out of this 'threatening' situation in a reduction in the world population. He deplores the fact that in backward countries modern methods to combat disease are being introduced, owing to which the growth of population in such countries is greatly increasing (Puerto Rico, Japan); population is likewise increasing in the agricultural regions of the US. He complains that up to the present time very little has been done by Science, State and Church towards 'regulating' the quantitative as well as the qualitative aspects of population growth. Making common cause with the widely fanatical proposals of Cook, Julian Huxley (author of the preface to Cook's book) considers that the question of the world's population numbers constitutes the gravest problem of our time.

1/Robert Cook, 'Human Fertility: the Modern Dilemma,' N.J.1951, 380 pp.

2/'Soil Science,' 1951, v. 71, No. 1, p. 82."

3. An article written by a Ukrainian DP, who came to the US in 1947 and who had personal contact with T D Lysenko, entitled "Malenkov and Lysenko." Although this article is very general and could be criticized from a pro-Soviet point of view, it indicates the possible trend away from the basic views of T D Lysenko. [See Enclosure I]

- end -

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